

**Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, May 18, 1844,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, May 18, 1844.

Confidential.

My dear Mr. Blair, I see from the Globe, that you have not recovered from your severe attack. I do hope that [a] kind providence will soon restore you to perfect health again. I am labouring under a severe attack upon my bowels, whether the complaint of my lungs are about to terminate in that way a few days will determine.

My mind has been greatly disturbed, since the publication of Mr. VanBurens and Bentons letters. Before that, the democracy of the south and west were firmly united on Mr. VanBuren, no other candidate spoken of. Clays letter declaring against reannexation of Texas, had crushed him with the Whiggs. I have often wished that I had been at my friend VanBurens elbow when closing his letter. Just to have said to him This would have thrown the responsibility of the truth of the facts on the Excutiv govt. You can say in truth, that you, have no source thro' which you can judge of the truth of the charges against foreign Governments of intrigues with Texas, to obtain an influence that may put in 0318 294 hazard the safety of the west, our Revenue, and the important interest of the south and west and the safety of Neworleans—that if this was true, then regardless of all consequences, he was for reannexation.” The safety of the Republic being the supreme law , he would have got at least 9/10 of all the votes of the south and west, there being about that ratio for annexi[n]g Texas to the united states. Mexico, without the secrete

Library of Congress

aid of Great Britain cannot reconquer Texas, but what assurance can there be that this aid will not be given if Texas refuses to make with her the proposed treaty. The greatest inducement to England is to get Texas ceded to her by Mexico, in payment of the great debt Mexico owes her. The situation of Texas is distressing, she is pressed down with debt, has no revenue, and cannot borrow. if this offer to the united states is rejected I have it from the highest functionaries of Texas, that she will have to look to some foreign Government for aid. This is great Britain. She will have to resign her negroes to England at \$250 a head. what situation would this place the safety of the south and west in. British influence exerted over the Indians and negroes, a Canada on our west as well as the north, servile war, an asylum for all runaway slaves. These are questions of solemn import to the south and west upon which all unite. . . .

I hope for the best, but I believe there is but one mode now left to unite the democracy of the south and west upon Mr VanBuren, and that is take up Polk for vice President. Polk has more popularity than any other man I know of. What vexes me most is this, when the democracy had laboured hard, was all united on Mr. V.B., his election sure, that his election should be Jeopardised, perhaps lost, by his illfated letter. Has not our friend Col. Benton had some influence in this unfortunate result— tell me —or has our friend V.B. common judgment been absent for the moment.

we all Join in the kindest salutations to you and yours. may god bless and preserve you is the prayer of yr friend

P.S. I write you now, fearful that my bowel complaint, if not checked may soon deprive me of strength, I hope for the best, but with calm resignation say “The Lords will be done.”